

Serial No. 10/784,054
60130-2012; 02MRA0356

REMARKS

Claims 2-3 and 22-28 remain pending in the application including independent claims 22 and 26. Claims 1 and 4-21 have been cancelled.

Independent claims 22 and 26 have been amended to clarify that the plastic film prohibits fibers from causing imperfections in an exterior surface of the vehicle body panel. This feature and the benefits provided thereby are set forth at paragraph [37] of the present application. None of the references disclose this feature as defined in claims 22 and 26.

Claims 2, 3, 22, and 23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lienert et al. (US 4160851) in view of Publication No. US 2004/0175593 to Davis et al. (Davis). Claim 24 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lienert in view of Davis and further in view of Wieschermann et al. (US 6623068). Claim 25 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lienert in view of Davis and further in view of Reedy (US 5707571). Claims 26 and 28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lienert in view of Melchert (US 4544126). These rejections are moot in light of the amendment discussed above.

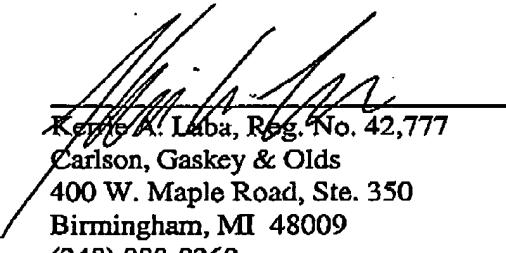
Additionally, claim 26 has been amended to clarify that the liquid foamable material that is used to form the back-foamed layer is applied in the open foam die. This further distinguishes the present invention from Melchert, which discloses closing the foam die and subsequently introducing the liquid foamable material into the closed die via passageways formed in a mold member. See col. 2, lines 9-11 and 32-33.

Applicant also requests that the examiner provide a copy of the provisional application that Davis claims priority to so that applicant can determine whether the provisional application fully supports the teachings in Davis that the examiner is relying on for the basis of the rejection. Often, a provisional application only provides a brief summary of a broad inventive concept. Thus, any matter that is not included in the provisional, i.e. any additional disclosures or teachings in Davis beyond that which was provided in the original provisional application, are only entitled to the benefit of the filing date of the utility application.

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Applicant asserts that the present application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. Applicant believes that no additional fees are necessary, however, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-1482 in the name of Carlson, Gaskey & Olds for any additional fees or credit the account for any overpayment.

Respectfully submitted,


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Dated: April 11, 2006

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION UNDER 37 CFR 1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, fax number (571) 273-8300, on April 11, 2006.


Laura Combs